

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A rail car cushioning device connected to a coupler, being switchable between a locked mode and a cushioning mode, comprising:

a housing comprising a hydraulic cylinder, a front head, a rear head and a reservoir, the hydraulic cylinder extends between the front head and the rear head defining a chamber;

a piston, comprising a piston rod extending through the front head into the chamber and a piston head carried in the piston chamber, the piston being responsive to buff and draft impacts, and the piston having a metering pin extending outwardly from the piston head towards the rear head and the rear head has an opening with an orifice disposed therein, the metering pin having a tapered cylindrical configuration adapted for engagement with the orifice; and,

a valve assembly in fluid communication with the cylinder including a valve body having an inlet opening and an outlet opening defining a passageway, a valve member interposed in the passageway being movable between an open position and a closed position to control fluid flow through the passageway.

2. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1 wherein in a cushioning mode, the valve is in an open position enabling fluid to communicate between the cylinder and reservoir via the valve assembly enabling the piston to stroke between a first and second position in the cylinder in response to buff and draft impacts on a coupler.

3. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1 wherein in a locked mode, the valve is in a closed position, preventing fluid from flowing through the valve assembly, preventing the piston from stroking, forming a relatively rigid structure.

4. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1 wherein the valve assembly further comprises a valve actuator for controlling movement of the valve member.

5. (Original) The cushioning device of claim 1 further comprising a controller in communication with the valve actuator for controlling the valve.

6. (Original) The cushion device of claim 5 wherein the controller processes an indicating signal and transmits a commanding signal to the valve actuator to open or close the valve.